

## **Training and Professional Development**

Creating and maintaining a successful youth firesetting prevention and intervention program requires continuous learning. Regardless of your expertise level, there is always opportunity to increase understanding and implement new strategies.

Changing a youth's firesetting behavior requires a multi-disciplinary approach. While the fire service is the leader in fire-prevention education programs, youth firesetting prevention and intervention requires a team of experts. Firesetting is often a reaction to family crisis, or a call for help from the child. Partners in juvenile justice, mental health, law enforcement, social services, schools and the fire service, including civilian volunteers and fire corps members, provide essential services.

A successful program requires a network of these stakeholders to advocate for youth. Firesetting-intervention education, and the referrals offered as a result, create successful diversion programs, keeping children out of the justice system and helping Minnesota youth and their families find the resources they need to live safely.

There are many opportunities for training in Minnesota. Sessions are open to all interested parties and include:

- Minnesota State Fire Schools
- Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association Conference
- Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association Pub-Ed Conference
- Regional Training Schools
- Regional Meetings
- Others upon request

If you have an idea for a training session or conference at which Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention information would be appropriate, please contact this office at 651-201-7220.

Thank you for all you do to keep our communities safe!